



**United Nations**

# **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

**Report on the reconvened  
fifty-ninth session  
(30 November-2 December 2016)**

**Economic and Social Council  
Official Records, 2016  
Supplement No. 8A**



**Economic and Social Council**  
Official Records, 2016  
Supplement No. 8A

# **Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

**Report on the reconvened fifty-ninth session  
(30 November-2 December 2016)**



United Nations • New York, 2016

*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[19 December 2016]

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	1
A. Draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council . . . . .	1
Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-ninth session . . . .	1
B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council . . . . .	1
Resolution 59/9     Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme . . . . .	1
II. Special segment on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem . . . . .	5
A. Opening . . . . .	5
B. General debate on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem . . . . .	5
C. Outcome and closure of the special segment . . . . .	9
III. Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions . . . . .	10
A. Deliberations . . . . .	11
B. Action taken by the Commission . . . . .	13
IV. Implementation of the international drug control treaties . . . . .	14
Deliberations . . . . .	14
V. Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1 . . . . .	16
Deliberations . . . . .	16
VI. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission . . . . .	18
A. Deliberations . . . . .	18
B. Action taken by the Commission . . . . .	18
VII. Other business . . . . .	19
VIII. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened fifty-ninth session . . . . .	20
IX. Organization of the session and administrative matters . . . . .	21
A. Opening and duration of the session . . . . .	21
B. Attendance . . . . .	22
C. Election of officers . . . . .	22

D. Documentation .....	22
E. Closure of the reconvened fifty-ninth session .....	22
Annex	
Statement by the co-chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime .....	23

## Chapter I

### **Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention**

#### **A. Draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council**

1. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

##### **Draft decision**

#### **Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-ninth session**

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-ninth session.

#### **B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council**

2. The attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to the following resolution, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifty-ninth session, and to the action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, in section XVI of which the Assembly authorized the Commission to approve the programme budget for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

##### **Resolution 59/9**

#### **Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Exercising* the administrative and financial functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/185 C, section XVI, paragraph 2, of 20 December 1991,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* that Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations emphasizes the paramount consideration of efficiency, competence and integrity with regard to the

---

<sup>1</sup> [E/CN.7/2016/17-E/CN.15/2016/14](#).

recruitment of staff and that due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible,

*Noting* with concern the lack of diversity, in particular equitable geographical representation, within the staff of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and emphasizing that the Office, both at headquarters and in the field, should take more effective measures to ensure the recruitment of a diverse pool of candidates,

*Recognizing* that the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the goal of equal representation of women in the composition of the Secretariat do not conflict with the paramount consideration in the employment of staff, namely the necessity of securing the highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity as set out in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 69/251 of 29 December 2014, in which the Assembly, inter alia, noted with disappointment the insufficient progress made with regard to achieving the goal of a 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations common system, especially in the Professional and higher categories, and requested the International Civil Service Commission to encourage the organizations of the common system to fully implement existing gender balance policies and measures,

*Recalling also* its resolution 56/17 of 13 December 2013,

1. *Notes* that the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime<sup>1</sup> provides information on the adjustments to the consolidated budget;

2. *Also notes* the continued strong donor confidence in programme delivery by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

3. *Further notes* the progress in the transition towards full cost recovery as set out in the report of the Executive Director;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to brief Member States regularly on the impact of the implementation of Umoja on the delivery of the Office's programmes in the field, as well as on the generation of programme support cost funds and full cost recovery funds, and the Office's efforts to mitigate that impact;

5. *Notes* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime can allocate programme support cost funds to the field offices, as appropriate, and requests the Office to continue to explore how best to apply programme support cost funds to field offices and to brief Member States regularly on the matter;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to consult with interested Member States before cancelling funded and mandated programmes;

7. *Notes* the cost-saving measures taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to maintain general-purpose expenditure at 6,968,900 United States dollars and programme support cost expenditure at 22,653,900 dollars;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to implement cost-saving measures both at headquarters and at field offices and to brief Member States regularly on the matter;



9. *Endorses* the revised estimates for special-purpose funds as indicated below:

**Resource projections for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme**

	<i>Resources (thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Posts</i>	
	<i>Approved budget, 2016-2017</i>	<i>Revised budget, 2016-2017</i>	<i>Approved budget, 2016-2017</i>	<i>Revised budget, 2016-2017</i>
<b>General-purpose funds</b>				
Post	6 539.7	6 539.7	21	21
Non-post	429.2	429.2	—	—
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6 968.9</b>	<b>6 968.9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Special-purpose funds</b>	261 249.9	213 207.7	130	130
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>261 249.9</b>	<b>213 207.7</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Programme support cost funds</b>				
Post	18 811.1	17 992.2	71	71
Non-post	4 662.6	4 661.7	—	—
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23 473.7</b>	<b>22 653.9</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>291 692.4</b>	<b>242 830.5</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>223</b>

10. *Notes* that the estimated resource projections above are subject to the availability of funding;

11. *Reiterates* that the Commission should continue to assess the provisional implementation by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of full cost recovery in the biennium 2016-2017 with regard to efficiency, feasibility and impact on the integrity and cost of the Office's field offices and projects;

12. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to hold, on an ongoing basis, consultations with Member States on all issues on the budget, including issues related to full cost recovery and programme support costs, including the criteria for their allocation to headquarters and field offices and changes to their applicable rates, and the impact of the new funding model on the Office's ability to deliver technical assistance to Member States upon their request;

13. *Reiterates* that full cost recovery cannot be applied retroactively except through bilateral agreements between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the relevant donors, taking into account, as appropriate, the views of recipient countries;

14. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide budgets for future bienniums to Member States no later than one month prior to their submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

15. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 65/247 of 24 December 2010, in which the Assembly reiterated its requests to the Secretary-General to present

proposals to effectively increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, while upholding Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, to intensify its efforts to ensure the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in particular in the Professional and higher categories, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts, and to report on the progress thereon to the Commission at its next session;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to intensify the efforts of the Office to achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, while upholding Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commission at its sixtieth session.

## Chapter II

### **Special segment on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem**

#### **A. Opening**

3. At the 1st and 2nd meetings of its reconvened fifty-ninth session, on 30 November 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held a special segment on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. The special segment was opened by the post-special session facilitator of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
4. At its 1st meeting, the Commission adopted the programme of work for the special segment as contained in document [E/CN.7/2016/1/Add.1](#).
5. At the opening, the facilitator made a statement. The Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs made a statement on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
6. For its consideration the Commission had before it the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex), as well as a conference room paper containing remarks made by the facilitator concerning thematic discussions about matters related to the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly ([E/CN.7/2016/CRP.12](#)).

#### **B. General debate on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem**

7. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, the Commission considered item 3 of the agenda for the special segment, entitled “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem”.
8. During the special segment, statements were made by the representatives of Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of African States), Philippines (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States) and Slovakia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States). Statements were also made by the representatives of Turkey, China, the Philippines, Nigeria, Belarus, Israel, Pakistan, Mexico, Morocco, Guatemala, Colombia, the Netherlands, Peru, Argentina, Chile, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Algeria, Thailand, Portugal, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Brazil, the Sudan, Ecuador, Jamaica, Afghanistan, Japan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Australia, Oman and Singapore.
9. The observer for the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission made a statement. A statement was also made by the Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.
10. Many speakers welcomed the adoption of the outcome document by the General Assembly, including its more than 100 operational recommendations. Some

speakers noted that the outcome document represented a milestone in the ongoing efforts to fully implement the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. Other speakers noted that the outcome document represented a milestone in the international debate on the world drug problem in the lead-up to 2019. Speakers also welcomed the follow-up given to the special session. As part of that follow-up, the thematic discussions being held on the seven chapters of the outcome document provided Member States with a valuable opportunity to discuss their implementation of the document's recommendations and exchange experiences and best practices in translating the recommendations into practice.

11. It was also noted that the document gave long-term guidance to the international community on countering the world drug problem. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session, UNODC must give balanced attention to various chapters of that document. It was stated that in the follow-up to the outcome document of the special session, special attention must be given to the capacity-building needs of the most affected transit States, in particular developing countries.

12. Many speakers agreed that the Commission should continue to fulfil its leading role as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters. Many speakers also highlighted the important work done by the Commission in leading the follow-up to the special session. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts undertaken by the facilitator and the leadership he provided.

13. The role of UNODC as the leading entity in the United Nations system for assisting Member States in countering the world drug problem, including by providing capacity-building and technical assistance, upon request, was highlighted. The important role of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in addressing the world drug problem was noted. In implementing the operational recommendations, the Commission, UNODC and INCB were encouraged to continue their cooperation with Member States, with United Nations specialized agencies, organs and entities, with relevant international organizations in accordance with their mandate, and with all relevant United Nations entities within their respective mandates, in particular the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and to further strengthen that cooperation.

14. The importance of cooperation with, and the crucial roles played by civil society, the scientific community, academia and other relevant stakeholders in supporting the implementation of the outcome document was stressed.

15. Many speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the three international drug control conventions, which constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system. Several speakers noted that the fundamental goal of the international drug control conventions was to ensure the health and welfare of humankind.

16. Many speakers reaffirmed their position that the three international drug control conventions, along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, constituted the cornerstone of the international drug control system. Many speakers highlighted the importance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of a people-centred approach.

17. It was acknowledged that the world drug problem continued to pose a serious threat to the health, security, safety and well-being of humanity, although notable progress had been made in countering it.

18. Many countries reaffirmed their determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity.

19. It was underlined that the persistent, new and evolving challenges posed by the world drug problem should be addressed in conformity with the international drug control conventions. Several speakers noted that there was sufficient scope and flexibility within the conventions to accommodate different national and regional approaches and to allow States to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, and in line with international law and the principle of common and shared responsibility. A number of speakers noted that there was no one-size-fits-all solution to the world drug problem.

20. It was stressed that an evidence-based, comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach was needed to devising strategies and policies to reduce supply and demand. That approach needed to include efforts to mainstream the gender perspective into drug policies and address the specific needs of children, young people and women.

21. Many speakers underlined that the efforts to achieve the goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the efforts to effectively address the world drug problem were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

22. Some speakers noted that the special session of the General Assembly had led to a better understanding of the socioeconomic consequences of the world drug problem. Support was expressed for taking a broader development perspective in the follow-up, led by the Commission.

23. It was stressed that the world drug problem remained a major and complex challenge for the international community that gave rise to serious public health consequences. It required effective bilateral, regional and international cooperation and enhanced technical and financial assistance based on the principle of common and shared responsibility. Speakers referred to support for and the promotion of regional, interregional and international cooperation in furthering development-oriented and balanced drug policies.

24. The need was stressed for evidence-based, targeted prevention programmes, strategies and measures that were in compliance with the international drug control conventions and national legislation. Many speakers underlined the importance of ensuring non-discriminatory access to prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes, including community-based programmes, for recovery and social reintegration of individuals with substance use disorders. Several speakers emphasized the need for measures aimed at minimizing the adverse consequences of drug abuse.

25. The inclusion was welcomed of a dedicated chapter on the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion, trafficking and abuse. The need for increased international cooperation, capacity-building, technical assistance and training in that regard was emphasized.

26. Several speakers stressed the need to address the serious challenges posed by increasing linkages between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in firearms, money-laundering and terrorism and its financing. The threat posed by drug trafficking to stability, safety and security was recognized, as was the need to tackle illicit financial flows arising from drug trafficking and other forms of crime.

27. Several speakers referred to the importance of ensuring proportionality of sentencing and alternatives to conviction or punishment, especially for persons who commit minor, non-violent drug-related offences. They welcomed the fact that the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly referred to the need to focus on treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration. Several speakers reaffirmed their opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences, and called for its universal abolition. Other speakers stressed that the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States should be fully respected and that every country had the sovereign right and responsibility to decide and implement the most appropriate approach to addressing the world drug problem, taking into account historical, political, economic, social, cultural and legal norms and conditions.

28. The continued proliferation of and the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants (including methamphetamine), and the risk they posed to public health were highlighted. In that regard, the importance was underscored of enhancing data collection and information-sharing, as well as of cooperation among States and their participation in the programme Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART).

29. The importance was highlighted of advancing, both in rural and urban areas, long-term and sustainable alternative development, including preventive alternative development, and of promoting viable economic alternatives for communities affected by the cultivation of illicit crops and illicit drug-related activities. The need was stressed for investment by donors and affected countries in such programmes and for advocacy by UNODC in that regard. The importance was highlighted of implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development at the global level.

30. Some speakers referred to expanding the set of indicators and tools to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly.

31. Many speakers welcomed the contributions by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to enhancing regional cooperation, in particular the meetings of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in the various regions. The need was stressed to make optimal use of those bodies in the follow-up to the special session. It was proposed that the substantive scope of those bodies be expanded with a view to strengthening the implementation of the outcome document at the regional level.

32. The facilitator recalled that the Commission had decided to hold another round of thematic discussions from 23 to 25 January 2017. It would cover all seven chapters of the outcome document and would be dedicated to action that could be taken by the Commission, including at its sixtieth regular session, to support

Member States in the implementation of the operational recommendations. He encouraged all stakeholders to send targeted contributions on the implementation of the outcome document for posting on the website of the Commission devoted to the follow-up to the special session.

### **C. Outcome and closure of the special segment**

33. A closing statement was made by the facilitator of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for matters related to the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly.

## Chapter III

### **Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions**

34. At the 3rd meeting of the reconvened fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held jointly with the reconvened twenty-fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 1 December 2016, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 3, which read as follows:

“Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions:

(a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and policy directives;

(b) Role of the Commission as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

(i) Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(ii) Administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions;

(c) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.”

35. For its consideration of item 3, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Addendum to the note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC ([E/CN.7/2016/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2016/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for UNODC ([E/CN.7/2016/17-E/CN.15/2016/14](#));

(c) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within UNODC ([E/CN.7/2016/18-E/CN.15/2016/15](#) and Corr.1);

(d) Statement by the co-chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC ([E/CN.7/2016/CRP.11-E/CN.15/2016/CRP.6](#)).

36. The Director of the Division for Management of UNODC made an introductory statement. The representative of Spain, in his capacity as co-chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, also made an introductory statement.



37. Statements were made by the representative of Uruguay (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and the observers for the Philippines (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States) and Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of African States). Statements were also made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, South Africa, Guatemala, Brazil, the United States, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, China, Pakistan, Thailand, Australia, Japan and Ecuador. The observer for Sweden also made a statement.

## A. Deliberations

38. Many speakers expressed their appreciation for the work conducted in the framework of the working group. The working group provided an appropriate and important forum for discussions on the governance and financial situation of UNODC that strengthened communication, transparency and trust between Member States and UNODC. Many speakers commended the leadership of the co-chairs and expressed support for the extension of the working group's mandate. It was noted that the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the twenty-sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would provide an opportunity for a thorough review of the work of the working group in view of a possible extension of its mandate.

39. The report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 ([E/CN.7/2016/17-E/CN.15/2016/14](#)) was welcomed. Several speakers noted the cost savings and efficiency measures and encouraged UNODC to maintain its efforts in that respect. The findings and recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors in its report on UNODC were acknowledged, as was the work of UNODC to maintain reliable financial records that accurately represented its financial situation. It was expected that UNODC would improve its analysis and reporting on budget variances.

40. The continued contribution of special-purpose funding was noted as a sign of confidence on the part of donors in the ability of UNODC to deliver quality programmes in its mandated areas. Several speakers expressed concern regarding the projected decrease in programme funding for Latin America and the Caribbean as reflected in the report of the Executive Director. UNODC was encouraged to assess the significance of the large decline in voluntary contributions to the drug programme received in the past year.

41. Several speakers noted with concern the significant decrease in general-purpose funding. The view was expressed that the decrease was not only hampering the delivery of the field activities of UNODC, but was also having a negative impact on the ownership of the core mandates of UNODC and its ability to implement normative work and maintain strategic oversight. The importance of ensuring stable, predictable and adequate resources for UNODC was emphasized. Donors were strongly encouraged to increase their contributions to general-purpose funding and consider less tight earmarking in special-purpose contributions.

42. Some speakers expressed support for the implementation of the full cost recovery initiative. It was noted that the initiative could be a way to ensure the quality of UNODC programmes and a sound financial future. The extension of the

transition period was welcomed, especially in field offices with a shortfall in donor contributions. UNODC was asked to share information about the basis used for establishing full cost recovery rates and to further engage in consultations with Member States on their application. Speakers expressed the view that programme support cost funds should be allocated both to UNODC headquarters and to its field offices, and asked that the criteria for its allocation be further clarified.

43. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the steps taken by the Office to strengthen its results-based management approach and welcomed the intention to conduct an evaluation of the implementation of results-based management in the coming year. UNODC was encouraged to develop strong performance indicators with an emphasis on their practical, real-world impact and was urged to make all programmes and projects subject to evaluation.

44. Some speakers expressed support for the ongoing efforts of the Independent Evaluation Unit of UNODC and encouraged the Office to continue developing a culture of evaluation.

45. Some speakers expressed concern that the implementation of Umoja had posed difficulties and had affected programme delivery. UNODC was encouraged to maintain its efforts to improve the deployment of Umoja and provide continuous training to its staff members. The development of a new reporting tool for Member States within Umoja was welcomed. Speakers expressed support for further improvements by UNODC to ensure that the new tool allowed Member States to follow the status of their contributions.

46. Appreciation was expressed for the report on gender balance and geographical representation within UNODC and for the efforts undertaken by the management of UNODC in improving gender balance and geographical representation. The importance of mainstreaming gender into all UNODC programmes was mentioned.

47. Several speakers noted that, although progress had been made by the Office towards achieving gender parity, enhanced efforts were needed in that area, especially with regard to senior-level positions, in order to ensure that UNODC would achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance at all levels by 2030. The importance of the implementation of measures to ensure work-life balance for staff was noted, as was the development of a gender-specific strategy.

48. Concern was expressed regarding the geographical composition of the staff of UNODC. The Office was called upon to make additional efforts, including the drafting of a plan of action recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit, to ensure that staff were recruited on as wide a geographical basis as possible and that special efforts be made to recruit candidates from developing countries and from unrepresented and underrepresented countries.

49. Some speakers expressed the view that, in line with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, the paramount consideration in the employment of staff should be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity.

50. It was noted that equitable geographical distribution and gender parity should be reflected in the composition of the staff of UNODC at all levels and that that would positively influence the effectiveness of the work of the Office.

51. Some speakers noted that both gender balance and geographical representation should be treated as major goals in staffing activities, that UNODC should continue its outreach efforts, including through its field offices and through regional and international organizations, and that vacancy announcements should be publicized with sufficient time in advance for candidates to apply.

## **B. Action taken by the Commission**

52. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 December 2016, the Commission took note of the statement of the co-chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC (see annex).

53. At its 4th meeting, on 2 December, the Commission adopted resolution 59/9, entitled “Implementation of the budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme” (see chap. I, sect. B).

## Chapter IV

### Implementation of the international drug control treaties

54. At the 4th meeting of its reconvened fifty-ninth session, the Commission considered agenda item 6 (b), entitled “Implementation of the international drug control treaties: changes in the scope of control of substances”.

55. For its consideration of item 6 (b), the Commission had before it a conference room paper containing an extract from the report on the thirty-eighth meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD), convened from 14 to 18 November 2016 at WHO headquarters in Geneva ([E/CN.7/2016/CRP.13](#)).

56. A presentation was made by the observer for WHO.

57. A statement was made by the observer for the Philippines (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States). Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States and Nigeria.

### Deliberations

58. Pursuant to Commission resolution 58/11, in preparation for the scheduling decisions to be taken by the Commission at its sixtieth regular session, the observer for WHO presented to the Commission information on the review process undertaken by ECDD at its thirty-eighth meeting and on its scheduling recommendations.

59. It was emphasized that drug control policies should be formulated and applied within the framework of the conventions, which continued to provide guidance and direction.

60. The work of WHO and ECDD was welcomed, including its conduct of evidence-based reviews of the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances. International controls over such substances were an important part of the joint response by States and complemented balanced approaches at the national, regional and international levels. Gaps in data on such substances continued to pose a key challenge to the work of ECDD and the efforts made by UNODC and INCB to address this issue were welcomed. States were called on to support those efforts by putting in place national and regional data gathering systems as recommended in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly of the world drug problem.

61. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts made to align the work of ECDD with the timetable of the Commission, including by presenting scheduling recommendations at reconvened sessions of the Commission. Given the proliferation of new psychoactive substances and their serious impact on public health, ECDD was encouraged to increase the frequency of its meetings.

62. Reference was made to the need to implement the commitments contained in the outcome document, including the possibility of adjusting the substantive focus and structure of subsidiary bodies by integrating public health and law enforcement approaches, while avoiding the establishment of costly and burdensome new bodies.

63. Appreciation was expressed for the work done by UNODC through the SMART programme and by INCB through its Project Ion.

## Chapter V

### **Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1**

64. At its 4th meeting, on 2 December, the Commission considered agenda item 8, entitled “Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1”.

65. The Chair of the Commission made an introductory statement. The Secretary of the Commission made a statement. The representative of the United States also made a statement.

#### **Deliberations**

66. Under the item, the Chair informed the Commission that he had briefed the Economic and Social Council at its coordination and management meeting held in July 2016 about the outcome of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission. On that occasion the Council had taken note of the report of that session and, in its decision 2016/246, had approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixtieth session of the Commission. Furthermore, the Chair noted that he had provided the Council with an overview of the written contributions made by the Commission to the integration segment of the 2016 session of the Council and to the theme “Ensuring that no one is left behind” of the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

67. Also at the 4th meeting, the Chair brought to the attention of the Commission General Assembly resolution 70/299, in which the Assembly, inter alia, decided that the themes of the high-level political forum for the coming years would be as follows: “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” (2017), “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” (2018) and “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” (2019). The Chair recalled that, in the same resolution, the Assembly had decided that Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14 would be reviewed in 2017. It was noted that of those, Goals 3 and 5 were of particular relevance to the work of the Commission. The Chair also recalled that a contribution by the Commission was under preparation in response to an invitation from the President of the Council for the Commission to provide substantive inputs to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2017.

68. Reference was made to a side event on supporting gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event was held during the reconvened fifty-ninth session of the Commission and had been organized jointly by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on the Status of Women. The efforts made by the Council to help coordinate and harmonize the work of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies were welcomed. Reference was made to the linkages between the work of the Commission, which had prime responsibility for drug control matters in the United Nations system, and that of other United Nations bodies. Reference was also made to the important roles

played by WHO, UNAIDS and the United Nations Development Programme. In that regard, the Commission was encouraged to involve other United Nations agencies in its work, for example through expert panels, briefings to the Commission and side events. The important role of civil society was mentioned.

69. It was noted that the Commission, along with UNODC and INCB, assisted States in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals consistent with drug control treaty obligations in the areas of public health, criminal justice and law enforcement. It was also noted that coordination between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was of particular relevance, given the link between drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and money-laundering. It was also noted that UNODC should assist States and other United Nations agencies to monitor and evaluate progress made with regard to Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 16 and to develop evidence-based responses to drugs and crime. With donor support and the input of drug control and law enforcement practitioners, UNODC could ensure that its core expertise in creating tools and training programmes was fully and appropriately utilized in programmes focused on fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Chapter VI

### **Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission**

70. At its 4th meeting, on 2 December 2016, the Commission considered agenda item 10, entitled “Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission”. The Chair introduced the item and brought to the attention of the Commission matters relating to the organization of work for its sixtieth session.

#### **A. Deliberations**

##### **1. Duration of the sixtieth session and other arrangements**

71. The Commission decided that the regular sixtieth session of the Commission would be held from Monday, 13 March to Friday, 17 March 2017, with pre-session consultations to be held on 10 March 2017. The Commission also decided that it would hold its reconvened sixtieth session on 7 and 8 December 2017, with the understanding that the finalized dates for that session would have to be determined in view of the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

72. The Commission further decided that, in accordance with its decision 55/1, the firm deadline for the submission of draft resolutions would be one month prior to the commencement of the session, namely by noon on Monday, 13 February 2017.

##### **2. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission**

73. The Chair of the Commission recalled that, in its decision 2016/246, the Economic and Social Council had approved the provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission. The Commission decided that item 4 of that provisional agenda would be subsumed under item 6, which would read as follows: “Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session”.

#### **B. Action taken by the Commission**

74. At its 4th meeting, on 2 December 2016, the Commission decided on the dates, deadlines and arrangements for its sixtieth session (see paras. 71-73, above).



## Chapter VII

### Other business

75. At its 4th meeting, on 2 December 2016, the Commission considered agenda item 11, entitled “Other business”. No issues were raised under the agenda item.

## Chapter VIII

### **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its reconvened fifty-ninth session**

76. At its 4th meeting, on 2 December 2016, the Commission adopted the parts of its report on the organization of the session and administrative matters, on the special segment on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, and on item 3 of the agenda ([E/CN.7/2016/L.1/Add.7-9](#)). The Commission decided that, in line with past practice, the present report would be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council and that a draft decision transmitting the report of the Commission on its reconvened fifty-ninth session to the Economic and Social Council for adoption would be included in the report on the reconvened session (see chap. I, sect. A). The Commission also decided to entrust the finalization of the report to the Chair of the Commission, with the assistance of the Rapporteur.

## Chapter IX

### Organization of the session and administrative matters

#### A. Opening and duration of the session

77. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its reconvened fifty-ninth session in Vienna from 30 November to 2 December 2016. The reconvened session included a special segment, held on 30 November 2016, on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

78. In the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in April 2016 (see General Assembly resolution S-30/1), Member States, inter alia, resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations.

79. At its third intersessional meeting, held on 8 September 2016, the Commission endorsed the proposal of the Chair that the Commission continue to work in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, covering all chapters of the outcome document and benefiting from the expertise and contributions of all relevant stakeholders. At the same meeting, the Commission endorsed a calendar of intersessional events for the remaining period of its fifty-ninth session, indicating tentative dates for thematic discussions with a view to promoting the implementation of all seven chapters of the outcome document of the special session containing operational recommendations. Also at that meeting, the Commission decided that, during the reconvened session an additional day, 30 November, would be devoted to a special segment on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly.

80. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2011/259 entitled “Joint meetings of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”, decided that, starting in 2011, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would hold joint meetings during their reconvened sessions for the sole purpose of considering agenda items included in the operational segment of the agendas of the Commissions, with a view to providing integrated policy directives to UNODC on administrative, budgetary and strategic management issues. The Council also decided that the practice of holding back-to-back reconvened sessions of both Commissions would be continued to enable each Commission to consider, in separate meetings, agenda items included in the normative segment of its agenda.

81. The Commission held a total of four meetings, including two meetings devoted to the special segment on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly. Pursuant to Council decision 2011/259, one meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to consider item 3 of the agenda of the Commission on

Narcotic Drugs and item 3 of the agenda of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

82. At the 1st meeting, the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs opened the reconvened session.

## **B. Attendance**

83. The reconvened session was attended by representatives of 43 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.7/2016/INF/3](#).

## **C. Election of officers**

84. On 7 September 2016, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States nominated Vivian Loss Sanmartin (Brazil) for the office of Second Vice-Chair. On 27 September 2016, the African Group nominated Gazing Jessy Napmwang Dangtim (Nigeria) for the office of Third Vice-Chair. The Commission elected the Second Vice-Chair and Third Vice-Chair at the beginning of its reconvened session during its consideration of agenda item 2.

## **D. Documentation**

85. The documents before the Commission at its reconvened fifty-ninth session are listed in [E/CN.7/2016/CRP.10/Add.1](#).

## **E. Closure of the reconvened fifty-ninth session**

86. At the 4th meeting, on 2 December, a closing statement was made by the Chair of the Commission.

## Annex

### **Statement by the co-chairs of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

1. Following the informal meetings of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the co-chairs of that working group submitted the following statement for the consideration of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened fifty-ninth session and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its reconvened twenty-fifth session.

2. In accordance with the mandate set out in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/13, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 18/3, Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 54/10, 54/17, 56/11 and 58/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/1, 20/9, 22/2 and 24/1, the working group addressed a large number of issues during its recent informal meetings, including: (a) ensuring adequate follow-up to the development of thematic, global and regional programmes; (b) promoting measures to improve the funding situation of UNODC; (c) the consolidated budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for UNODC; (d) supporting measures to promote a culture of evaluation throughout UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation; and (e) strengthening human resources governance to improve gender balance and geographical representation.

3. The mandate of the working group will end in the first half of 2017 in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2015/234. In the first half of 2017, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its sixtieth session, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twenty-sixth session, are expected to carry out a thorough review of the functioning of the working group and consider the extension of its mandate. In order to facilitate consultations during the reconvened sessions of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the working group wishes to bring the following salient issues to the attention of both Commissions for their further consideration, so as to continue drawing on resolution 58/1 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and resolution 24/1 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:

(a) **Continuous support for strengthening the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.** The working group has, on several occasions, discussed fundraising issues to ensure adequate, predictable and stable funding, and ways to achieve a sustainable balance between core and non-core funding for UNODC to ensure delivery capacity and the sustainability of the Office's programmes. The working group has also been considering the implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/12 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 24/3 and has been briefed on the transition to the full cost recovery funding model and on the

implementation of Umoja. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to request the working group to continue examining and discussing the funding situation and financial management of UNODC, inter alia by:

- (i) Receiving reports on and facilitating the resource mobilization process to promote global and regional programmes of UNODC along with their resource requirements and to enhance funding predictability in line with the strategic frameworks for the periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019;
- (ii) Continuing to discuss with UNODC efforts to further encourage donors to provide general purpose funding, including by means of further increasing the transparency and quality of reporting, and to continue to discuss the reasons for the low level of general purpose funding with a view to restoring an adequate balance between general purpose and special purpose funds;
- (iii) Continuing to consider the progress and impact of the implementation of full cost recovery and the application and allocation of programme support costs with a view to increasing the effectiveness and results of the technical assistance programmes of the Office;
- (iv) Receiving reports on the impact of the implementation of Umoja on the delivery of the Office's programmes;

**(b) Continuous support for promoting an integrated programme approach.**

The working group has been following progress made by UNODC in implementing an integrated programming approach that seeks to strengthen the links between normative mandates and operational technical assistance, and in improving linkages between policy, strategic planning, evaluation, programmatic work, mobilization of resources, and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to request the working group to:

- (i) Continue promoting regular dialogue among all Member States as well as with UNODC on the planning and formulation of the operational activities of UNODC, especially with regard to its global and regional programmes, in line with the strategic frameworks for the periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019;
- (ii) Continue receiving information from UNODC on progress made in the implementation of regional and global programmes carried out within the framework of the related thematic programmes, as well as on progress made with regard to integrating lessons learned and recommendations from evaluations within and across regions, ensuring complementarities among programmes and their alignment with the strategic frameworks for the periods 2016-2017 and 2018-2019;
- (iii) Continue discussing with UNODC the implementation of results-based management and budgeting;

**(c) Continuous support for promoting a culture of evaluation within UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation.**

The working group has been provided with numerous presentations on evaluation findings, at which occasions participants have reiterated the importance of having a sustainable, effective and operationally independent corporate evaluation function at

UNODC that is focused on the implementation, performance and impact of integrated programmes and the consistency with the mandates of the Office. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to request the working group to invite the Independent Evaluation Unit to:

- (i) Continue providing the working group with evaluation findings of UNODC programmes;
- (ii) Continue promoting a culture of evaluation throughout UNODC at all stages of programme planning, development and implementation;
- (iii) Continue to work with UNODC in monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by relevant oversight bodies;
- (iv) Continue to work with UNODC on increasing coordination between evaluation, audit and other oversight bodies with the aim of building a continuum of oversight of UNODC projects and programmes;

**(d) Continuous support for improved gender balance and geographical representation.** The working group has been discussing the question of geographical representation and gender balance in the staff composition of UNODC as part of its efforts to improve the governance of the Office. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to request the working group to:

- (i) Continue addressing the issue of gender and geographical representation and its evolution, in order to discuss possible measures for further improvement in this area by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts;
- (ii) Continue receiving updated and comprehensive information, including in a disaggregated way, on the composition of the staff and recruitment policies of UNODC;

**(e) Continuous support for gender mainstreaming in UNODC policies and programmes.** The working group has been discussing the question of gender mainstreaming in UNODC policies and programmes as part of its efforts to align its work with the UNODC guidance note on gender mainstreaming. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to request the working group to:

- (i) Continue addressing the issue of gender mainstreaming in UNODC policies and programmes in order to discuss possible measures for further improvement in this area;
- (ii) Continue receiving updated and comprehensive information on the ways in which gender is mainstreamed in UNODC policies and programmes;

**(f) Extending the mandate and reviewing the format and organization of work of the working group.** The working group has proved its efficiency in supporting the improvement of the governance and financial situation of UNODC by continuing to be the forum for dialogue among Member States and between Member States and the Secretariat on UNODC programme development and implementation, and by continuing to discuss, on a regular basis, financial and governance matters relating to UNODC. By the same token, the working group has continued to provide support to the oversight role played by the two Commissions

as governing bodies. Should the Commissions decide to extend the mandate of the working group, they might wish to review the current format and organization of work of the working group at their regular sessions in 2017 and, in doing so, consider the concrete proposals contained in the present statement.